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through some scientific skulls—but to you it is axiomatic. It is equally axiomatic that you cannot do all you would for the scholar, and that he cannot do all he would for you without money, money, money. Each and all of us must confront hard-hearted practical trustees and convince them of the wisdom and necessity of our demands. Perhaps it is quite as well that this is so. Struggle is just as much the spice of life as variety, and, if this is true, the life of the library or the university executive is certainly well seasoned. You need money to pay better salaries and thus to induce more men and women of high talents and ambitions and equipment to enter your ranks, you can spend the fortunes of a good many millionaires in new and enlarged library plants, and as for the books you ought to buy—well, if you only stop buying them when we who study and write them stop making demands upon you, I think you will sing your “nunc dimittis” not one hour sooner than the day of judgment. In view, however, of all the work that lies before you and your successors between now and that dread catastrophe, it is certainly fitting that I should consume no more of your precious time by dealing out these counsels of perfection. My last words shall be—Remember that there are no men and women living who are doing better work for posterity than you are doing; be confident that the public will come more and more to realize this fact; and be assured that the teachers, the writers, the scholars of America are ready to make common cause with you whenever they can be of service to you.

The PRESIDENT: I am sure I but voice the sentiments of the Association in my thanks expressed to Mr Trent personally as well as officially for the address to which we have just listened. It forms an admirable preface to all the work of the conference, and peculiarly and especially to the next paper on the printed program. I may say in introducing the speaker that it has been the desire of the Program committee to call upon the affiliated societies to

furnish some of their best thought for the consideration of the general session, believing that they have many men whom we would like to hear, and that we could furnish them with a larger audience than their own membership. Therefore I have pleasure in presenting Mr Andrew Keogh, of Yale university library as the representative of the Bibliographical society of America, to speak on the general subject of Bibliography.

#### ADDRESS OF MR KEOGH

On Tuesday, April 18, 1775, Samuel Johnson, James Boswell, and Sir Joshua Reynolds went to dine with the poet Cambridge at his villa on the banks of the Thames near Twickenham.

“No sooner,” says Boswell, “had we made our bow to Mr Cambridge, in his library, than Johnson ran eagerly to one side of the room, intent on poring over the backs of the books. Sir Joshua observed, (aside) ‘He runs to the books, as I do to the pictures: but I have the advantage. I can see much more of the pictures than he can of the books.’ Mr Cambridge, upon this, politely said, ‘Dr Johnson, I am going, with your pardon, to accuse myself, for I have the same custom which I perceive you have. But it seems odd that one should have such a desire to look at the backs of books.’ Johnson, ever ready for contest, instantly started from his reverie, wheeled about, and answered, ‘Sir, the reason is very plain. Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information upon it. When we enquire into any subject, the first thing we have to do is to know what books have treated of it.’”

This saying of Johnson embodied an idea so striking in his day as to be thought worthy of record. To-day it is commonplace. The acquisition of knowledge grows harder as books multiply and the boundaries of knowledge widen, and a mastery of methods of investigation is now the highest aim in education.

A similar shifting of the emphasis has taken place in the field of bibliographical endeavor. Bibliography has hitherto considered books chiefly as relics of the past or as works of art. This form of bibliog-

rathy has been of great historic and artistic value. Nevertheless, it has been completely overshadowed by the recent growth of practical bibliography, whose function is to facilitate research. On every hand bibliographers are now at work indexing and classifying knowledge, that men may have access to it without unnecessary toil. The time which an earlier investigator spent in seeking information is now devoted to making use of information, and the gain to science is great.

Bibliographies differ first in their scope. They are all limited in one or more of three ways—by territory, by period, and by subject. The best specimens of regional bibliography are the trade lists, whose aim is to record books published within a given territory. Trade lists are also good examples of periodical bibliography, for they usually have certain chronological limits. A bibliography of a country for a given period is the best exhibition of the intellectual interests of its people during that period; the 200,000 titles in Fortescue's Subject index represent the literary activity of the world during the last quarter of a century. Every bibliography has at least one date limit, namely, the date of publication. Some of the larger works, as, for example, the British Museum catalog, or Sonnenschein's Best books, incorporate entries up to the time of printing each sheet, so that the sections or classes are not co-terminous in date. As bibliographies in book form soon become antiquated, we have current bibliographies which put material into our hands while it is still fresh and at its maximum of usefulness. The Germans have *Jahresberichte* for many different fields, and in this country we have current bibliographies of medicine, psychology, engineering, American history and other topics. There is now an annual bibliography of bibliographies, but there is yet no way of finding what new bibliographies are in preparation. Courtney gave references to bibliographies in manuscript and to those in progress, and in 1901 Johnston gave a report on current

bibliographical undertakings in the United States, but there has been nothing since. It is gratifying to learn that our Bibliographical society plans to publish lists of bibliographies in preparation, at least so far as the United States is concerned.

The most obvious difference in the scope of bibliographies is that of their subject matter. The subjects range from the bibliography of bibliographies of bibliographies, which is surely the widest because the most inclusive class, down to the bibliography of minute topics. They are as numerous and as varied as the heads in an ideal scheme of classification. One class of subject bibliography calling for special note is the catalogs of special libraries or collections. The Birmingham Shakespeare catalog, the Ticknor Spanish catalog, the Avery Architecture catalog, the Cornell Dante catalog and the Surgeon General's Index-catalog are well known examples. The new List of special collections in American libraries will be of great service in indicating bibliographies of this kind. Some of the catalogs of auctions, and of the better class of dealers, are excellent bibliographical tools.

The second main difference in bibliographies is their method of internal arrangement. The questions here are almost the same as in cataloging. The individual titles may be arranged under authors, as in Allibone, or Foggendorff; or in a logically classed order, like Gross or Muhlbrecht, or in an alphabetico-classed, like Fortescue; or in alphabetical subject order, like Richardson and Morse; or in chronological order, like Cole's Church catalog; or in geographical order, like the York Gate catalog. For certain users or certain purposes one or other form is to be preferred, but so long as use is facilitated by the provision of complementary indexes, the mode of disposition is unimportant. It is sometimes possible through difference of method to make one bibliography complement another. Thus Vallée will serve as an author index to Stein; Fortescue's Subject index has its author list in the "Catalog of

printed books." The duplication of work by the "Publishers' weekly" and the Wilson company is not without advantages.

The third great difference between bibliographies is in their completeness, accuracy and value. A bibliography is an exhibition of the literature of a subject, and its usefulness is primarily in proportion to its completeness. It is largely because the historians of earlier days did not employ all the documents, but only those on which they could lay their hands, that their works are without scholarly value. Even to-day the fullest bibliographies are only approximately complete. The rule of the *Bibliographia zoologica* and the "Index medicus" is exhaustiveness in the inclusion of books; but articles are excerpted only from such magazines as deal solely or chiefly with zoology or medicine. Then again the notes printed in small type in magazines are not usually indexed, although many of them are of importance to specialists. The *Concilium bibliographicum*, after hesitating for years, now publishes a supplementary bibliography of such notes. There is no reasonable objection to discrimination and exclusion, so long as the principles of selection are stated and a complete list of sources is given. Whether exhaustive or select, a bibliography should at least be accurate. In common with other scholars of their age, the early bibliographers were neither full nor accurate, and they would be astonished at the careful collations given in such lists as Cole's *Church Americana*. We are all ready to overlook occasional errors, for De Morgan has shown us how difficult it is to describe books correctly; but the man who compiles bibliographies with the scissors should have no mercy. Many titles are screens and need explanation; others are inadequate or misleading, and require careful study of the text before the precise topic can be ascertained and recorded. There is a growing practice among European editors of indexing each article, and indicating its exact scope or object, at the time of its appearance. The general adoption of this

practice would greatly reduce the trouble of indexing and the risk of error.

A complete and accurate list of titles is, however, only the indispensable beginning of a bibliography. The user is still compelled to consult and analyze each work in order to discover the parts of value to him. If he merely chooses at random he may get the most worthless of the lot. As the benefit to be derived from a book depends largely upon the judgment with which it is selected, it follows that it is the duty of the bibliographer to give not merely a list of books, but also some indication as to their value.

Value may be indicated, first, by a careful selection of titles. All bibliographies are selective; but they differ in the degree to which exclusion is carried. The "Index medicus" omits certain journals because they are trivial in character; the Engineering index omits articles of casual or passing interest and those based on false assumptions or leading to erroneous conclusions; Richardson excludes from his *Fathers*, the "too rhetorical and juvenile," and those that add nothing for critical study. In the case of many bibliographies it is of-course selection, and not exhaustiveness, that is the ruling principle. Sonnenschein, the "A. L. A. catalog," the lists issued by the A. L. A. and the New York state library, lists of best books like those of Lubbock and Canfield, the Pittsburgh and the Brooklyn juvenile lists, and the Newark list of novels, all aim at selecting books that are vital, significant or typical. The same is true of encyclopedias and other well-made books that append bibliographies, with the double purpose of authenticating their statements and indicating the best books for further study.

The second method of annotation is description—the doing for the contents of a book what the cataloger does for its material side. Those bibliographies are of the most use that give after each title a note explaining the scope, method, or conclusions of the work. The notes in college catalogs describing the courses of study, or

the annotations on a musical program, might well serve as models.

The third form of annotation is evaluation. A recent important recognition of this method is the ruling of the American historical association "that all monographs submitted hereafter for the Justin Winsor prize must be accompanied by a list of titles 'with critical comments and valuations.'" Critical annotations should tell the author's qualification for his task; his attitude toward his subject; his defects, errors and limitations, with references to the necessary supplementary reading; and the particular purpose, and class of readers, to which a book is best suited. Model annotations, embodying sane judgments, are to be found in the A. L. A. lists.

From this conception of bibliography, it follows that most of the lists now in use are not bibliographies at all, but only attempts towards bibliographies; and further, that librarians in general are not competent to make bibliographies. To personally examine all the books in a field; to make a list which shall omit books once of repute but now obsolete, and shall include old-fashioned books that are still valuable for erudition or criticism; to know how far a book is original and how far an echo; to avoid hasty critical judgments, especially in current literature; to make judicious quotations; to suggest proper methods of use and the best order in which books should be read; to make a list which a scholar may be glad to consult and a beginner will find indispensable; these are tasks from which any of us might shrink. A good annotated bibliography is practically a brief critical history, involving a complete mastery of the subject and an immense amount of labor. Any of us could, with care and perseverance, make a complete list of books on Rousseau, but if John Morley were to indicate the three most vital and significant of these works, he would do a hundredfold greater service to learning. It is one of the great advantages and delights of college library work that the librarian has constantly at hand a body of experts upon whom he can de-

pend for critical selection. These experts are precisely the persons who ought to make bibliographies, but they are unfortunately the best able to dispense with them. Librarians should feel no compunction in levying toll upon the knowledge of these specialists, either directly as in college libraries or indirectly by using the books and reviews they write.

A library should build up its bibliographical collection as fully as possible, and see that readers use it constantly. It is a great mistake to place the bibliographies in the librarian's room, the catalog room or other out of the way place. The small library should display its Poole's Index, its A. L. A. lists, its Peabody catalog, as prominently as its own catalog, and the larger libraries should shelve their bibliographies with other reference books.

One of the chief uses of bibliography is in the buying of books. Few libraries can have all the books on a subject, and the smaller the library the greater the need of selecting the best. A critical bibliography is the best working basis in building up a new collection or in discovering and remedying deficiencies in an old one. Some bibliographies are especially helpful because they suggest books for first purchase or for small libraries.

Another special use of bibliography is in the compilation of reading lists limited to the resources of a particular library. The making of carefully annotated reading lists on current topics is one of the most important duties of the librarian, educating both him and his public. The annotations, like the library's selection of books, should be made with a special eye to the local community, and the temporary purpose of the list. Every list should be dated, and if it is to be at all permanent it should be carefully revised at intervals.

One of the less obvious uses of a bibliography is to give a preliminary survey of a field of study. A reader who becomes interested in a subject will there find the whole field mapped out and subdivided. He will get a just view of the relations between his field and others, and between

the subordinate parts of his own field, and while following the paths that most attract him, will be saved from narrowness of outlook.

Bibliography, finally, serves to indicate the parts of a field of knowledge that remain untilled. When Winsor Jones was Librarian of the British Museum, Justin Winsor once said to him: "How often does it happen that a special student, seeking the utmost recesses of his subject, can find all he desires in your collection?" Jones's answer was: "Not one such investigator in ten is satisfied." "Because you haven't the books he needs?" Winsor inquired. "Yes, partly for that reason," Jones replied, "but still in good part because the books he wishes do not exist. When you have been a librarian as long as I have," he added, "you will be convinced of the small margin of the bounds of knowledge as yet covered by printed books." It is in defining the boundaries of knowledge, and determining the starting point of research, that bibliography serves its highest purpose.

The Association then passed to the consideration of reports of Committees and Mr N. D. C. HODGES presented the

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY WORK WITH THE BLIND

Thrashing about for a proper opening to this report it seemed to the Chairman that nothing could serve better than a few terse paragraphs from a letter of Dr Steiner's. While not brief enough to serve as a formal text, they have that firmness and clean-cuttedness which make them suitable for a head to which may be attached such verbiage as may follow.

Dr Steiner, of the Enoch Pratt free library of Baltimore, writes:

"We have a department for the blind, containing 1025 volumes in New York point and line letter type, using these types inasmuch as the New York point is that used by our two state schools for white and black pupils. The books are catalogued in the same way as all other books in the library. Last year we circulated

545 volumes for the blind. A year and a half ago, taking advantage of the free carriage through the mails of books for the blind, we began sending these books to the blind persons throughout the state, having made an agreement with the State library commission which body assumed responsibility for the safe return of the books, and agreed to pay us the sum of fifteen cents for each book circulated.

"We do not have readings for the blind. Mr Frederick D. Morrison, for many years Superintendent of the Maryland school for the blind, was much opposed to these readings, and we have accepted the policy of the school as our own. I believe it is very important to be in close harmony with the instructors of the blind. We do not give instruction ourselves, nor do we believe it to be the proper function of the public library. Our funds for the purchase of books for the blind are taken from our regular book fund.

"The public library has no business to visit the blind or aid in securing them work, any more than it has to render these services to any other class of the community. We should always bear in mind that we are libraries and that our business is to disseminate literature."

In the summer of 1900 a blind girl, led by her sister, called upon the librarian of the Public library of Cincinnati and solicited his aid in starting some work for the blind of that city. The librarian, knowing that his trustees were soft-hearted and—with all due deference—believing them to be soft-headed, restrained the well-intentioned impulses of the board to take the work immediately under its patronage, buy embossed books and salary an attendant out of the public funds.

The librarian secured the board's approval for the use of a room for the blind and aided in getting volunteers from among the good men and women of Cincinnati to read to the blind on stated days. He then urged this girl, Miss Georgia D. Trader, to go among the philanthropic people of the community and secure funds for the purchase of the needed books.

That librarian informs us that he takes no little pride in all that heartless action and heartless advice. Nothing would have been easier than to have had in Cincinnati a room well filled with embossed books, an